

Purpose: To provide for the establishment of the Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—113th Cong., 1st Sess.

**S. 1197**

## References

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. BLUNT

1 At the end of subtitle B of title XII, add the fol-

2 lowing:

3 SEC. 1220. SPECIAL ENVOY TO PROMOTE RELIGIOUS FREE-  
4 DOM OF RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN THE  
5 NEAR EAST AND SOUTH CENTRAL ASIA.

(a) APPOINTMENT.—The President may appoint a Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia (in this section referred to as the “Special Envoy”) within the Department of State. The Special Envoy shall have the

1 rank of ambassador and shall hold the office at the pleas-  
2 ure of the President.

3 (b) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Special Envoy should be  
4 a person of recognized distinction in the field of human  
5 rights and religious freedom and with expertise in the  
6 Near East and South Central Asia.

7 (c) DUTIES.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Special Envoy shall  
9 carry out the following duties:

10 (A) Promote the right of religious freedom  
11 of religious minorities in the countries of the  
12 Near East and the countries of South Central  
13 Asia, denounce the violation of such right, and  
14 recommend appropriate responses by the  
15 United States Government when such right is  
16 violated.

17 (B) Monitor and combat acts of religious  
18 intolerance and incitement targeted against reli-  
19 gious minorities in the countries of the Near  
20 East and the countries of South Central Asia.

21 (C) Work to ensure that the unique needs  
22 of religious minority communities in the coun-  
23 tries of the Near East and the countries of  
24 South Central Asia are addressed, including the

1 economic and security needs of such commu-  
2 nities.

3 (D) Work with foreign governments of the  
4 countries of the Near East and the countries of  
5 South Central Asia to address laws that are  
6 discriminatory toward religious minority com-  
7 munities in such countries.

8 (E) Coordinate and assist in the prepara-  
9 tion of that portion of the report required by  
10 sections 116(d) and 502B(b) of the Foreign As-  
11 sistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151n(d) and  
12 2304(b)) relating to the nature and extent of  
13 religious freedom of religious minorities in the  
14 countries of the Near East and the countries of  
15 South Central Asia.

16 (F) Coordinate and assist in the prepara-  
17 tion of that portion of the report required by  
18 section 102(b) of the International Religious  
19 Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6412(b)) re-  
20 lating to the nature and extent of religious free-  
21 dom of religious minorities in the countries of  
22 the Near East and the countries of South Cen-  
23 tral Asia.

24 (2) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the duties  
25 under paragraph (1), the Special Envoy shall, to the

1 maximum extent practicable, coordinate with the As-  
2 sistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees  
3 and Migration, the Ambassador at Large for Inter-  
4 national Religious Freedom, the United States Com-  
5 mission on International Religious Freedom, and  
6 other relevant Federal agencies and officials.

7 (d) DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION.—Subject to the  
8 direction of the President and the Secretary of State, the  
9 Special Envoy is authorized to represent the United States  
10 in matters and cases relevant to religious freedom in the  
11 countries of the Near East and the countries of South  
12 Central Asia in—

13 (1) contacts with foreign governments, intergov-  
14 ernmental organizations, and specialized agencies of  
15 the United Nations, the Organization of Security  
16 and Cooperation in Europe, and other international  
17 organizations of which the United States is a mem-  
18 ber; and

19 (2) multilateral conferences and meetings rel-  
20 evant to religious freedom in the countries of the  
21 Near East and the countries of South Central Asia.

22 (e) CONSULTATIONS.—The Special Envoy shall con-  
23 sult with domestic and international nongovernmental or-  
24 ganizations and multilateral organizations and institu-

1 tions, as the Special Envoy considers appropriate to fulfill  
2 the purposes of this section.

3 (f) FUNDING.—

4 (1) AUTHORITY.—Of the amounts appropriated  
5 or otherwise made available to the Secretary of State  
6 for “Diplomatic and Consular Programs” for fiscal  
7 years 2014 through 2018, the Secretary of State is  
8 authorized to provide to the Special Envoy  
9 \$1,000,000 for each such fiscal year for the hiring  
10 of staff, the conduct of investigations, and necessary  
11 travel to carry out the provisions of this section.

12 ~~(2) FUNDING OFFSET.—To offset the costs to~~  
13 ~~be incurred by the Department of State to carry out~~  
14 ~~the provisions of this section for fiscal years 2014~~  
15 ~~through 2018, the Secretary of State shall eliminate~~  
16 ~~such positions within the Department of State, un-~~  
17 ~~less otherwise authorized or required by law, as the~~  
18 ~~Secretary determines to be necessary to fully offset~~  
19 ~~such costs.~~

20 (3) LIMITATION.—No additional funds are au-  
21 thorized to be appropriated for “Diplomatic and  
22 Consular Programs” to carry out the provisions of  
23 this section.